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MULTIFRACTAL ANALYSIS OF SOME MULTIPLE ERGODIC AVERAGES IN LINEAR COOKIE-CUTTER DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS

AIHUA FAN, LINGMIN LIAO, AND MENG WU

ABSTRACT. In this paper, we study the multiple ergodic averages of a locally constant real-valued function in linear Cookie-Cutter dynamical systems. The multifractal spectrum of these multiple ergodic averages is completely determined.

1. INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF RESULTS

Let $T : X \rightarrow X$ be a continuous map on a compact metric space X . Let f_1, \dots, f_ℓ ($\ell \geq 2$) be ℓ bounded real-valued functions on X . The following *multiple ergodic average*

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n f_1(T^k x) f_2(T^{2k} x) \cdots f_\ell(T^{\ell k} x)$$

is widely studied in ergodic theory by Furstenberg [9], Bourgain [2], Host and Kra [10], Bergelson, Host and Kra [1] and others. Fan, Liao and Ma [4] and Kifer [13] have independently studied such multiple ergodic averages from the point of view of multifractal analysis. Later on, the multifractal analysis of multiple ergodic averages have attracted much attention. First works are done on symbolic spaces. Let $m \geq 2$ be an integer and $S = \{0, \dots, m-1\}$. Consider the symbolic space $\Sigma_m = S^{\mathbb{N}^*}$ endowed with the metric

$$d(x, y) = m^{-\min\{n, x_n \neq y_n\}}, \quad \forall x, y \in \Sigma_m.$$

The first object of study was the Hausdorff dimension of the following level sets ([4])

$$E(\alpha) = \left\{ (x_k)_{k=1}^\infty \in \Sigma_2 : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n x_k x_{2k} = \alpha \right\}, \quad \alpha \in [0, 1].$$

More generally we may consider the Hausdorff spectrum of the following level sets of multiple ergodic averages

$$E_\varphi^\ell(\alpha) = \left\{ (x_k)_{k=1}^\infty \in \Sigma_m : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \varphi(x_k, x_{kq}, \dots, x_{kq^{\ell-1}}) = \alpha \right\}, \quad \alpha \in \mathbb{R} \quad (1)$$

where $q \geq 2, \ell \geq 2$ are integers and φ is a real-valued function defined on $\{0, \dots, m-1\}^\ell$. The level set $E(\alpha)$ then corresponds to the set $E_\varphi^\ell(\alpha)$ with special choice $q = 2, \ell = 2$ and $\varphi(x, y) = xy$. See the works of Kenyon, Peres and Solomyak [11, 12], Peres, Schmeling, Seuret and Solomyak [16] on some specific subsets of level sets $E(\alpha)$. See Peres and Solomyak [15] for the multifractal analysis of $E(\alpha)$. Fan, Schmeling and Wu [6, 7] have considered a class of functions φ that are involved in (1). Fan, Schmeling and Wu [8] have also considered some similar averages called V -statistics.

All of the above mentioned results concentrated on the full shift dynamical system (Σ_m, σ) where the Lyapunov exponent of the shift transformation is constant. Recently, Liao and Rams [14] performed the multifractal analysis of a class of special

multiple ergodic averages for some systems with non-constant Lyapunov exponents. More precisely, they considered a piecewise linear map T on the unit interval with two branches. Let $I_0, I_1 \subset [0, 1]$ be two intervals with disjoint interiors. Suppose that for each $i \in \{0, 1\}$, the restriction $T : I_i \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is bijective and linear with slope e^{λ_i} , $\lambda_i > 0$. Let J_T be the repeller of T , i.e.

$$J_T := \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} T^{-n}[0, 1].$$

Then (J_T, T) becomes a dynamical system. As in [4, 6, 15], Liao and Rams investigated the following sets

$$L(\alpha) = \left\{ x \in J_T : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n 1_{I_1}(T^k x) 1_{I_1}(T^{2k} x) = \alpha \right\} \quad (\alpha \in [0, 1]).$$

By adapting the method of [15], they obtained the Hausdorff spectrum of the above level sets $L(\alpha)$.

We point out that the methods used in [15] and [14] seem inconvenient to be generalised to other IFSSs with many branches and more general potentials φ . Some more adaptive methods are needed to generalise Liao–Rams’ results. The aim of this paper is to use similar arguments as in [7] to extend Liao–Rams’ results to the situation that we describe below.

Let $I_0, \dots, I_{m-1} \subset [0, 1]$ be m intervals with disjoint interiors. Let $T : \bigcup_{i=0}^{m-1} I_i \rightarrow [0, 1]$ be such that the restriction $T|_{I_i}$ is bijective and linear with slope e^{λ_i} , $\lambda_i > 0$ ($0 \leq i \leq m-1$). Denote by J_T the repeller of T .

Let $\ell \geq 2$ be an integer, and φ be a function defined on $[0, 1]^\ell$ taking real values. We assume that φ is locally constant in the sense that φ is constant on each hyper-rectangle $I_{i_1} \times I_{i_2} \times \dots \times I_{i_\ell}$ ($0 \leq i_1, i_2, \dots, i_\ell \leq m-1$). With an abuse of notation, we write

$$\varphi(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_\ell) = \varphi(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_\ell)$$

for all $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_\ell) \in I_{i_1} \times I_{i_2} \times \dots \times I_{i_\ell}$.

In this paper, we would like to study the following sets

$$L_\varphi(\alpha) := \left\{ x \in J_T : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum \varphi(T^k x, T^{kq} x, \dots, T^{kq^{\ell-1}} x) = \alpha \right\}, \alpha \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Our aim is to determine the Hausdorff dimension of $L_\varphi(\alpha)$.

For simplicity of notations, we restrict ourselves to the case $\ell = 2$ (the same arguments work for arbitrary $\ell \geq 2$ without any problem). For any $s, r \in \mathbb{R}$, consider the non-linear transfer operator $\mathcal{N}_{(s,r)}$ on \mathbb{R}_+^m defined by

$$(\mathcal{N}_{(s,r)} \underline{t})_i = \left(\sum_{j=0}^{m-1} e^{s\varphi(i,j) - r\lambda_j} t_j \right)^{1/q}, \quad (i = 0, \dots, m-1). \quad (2)$$

for all $\underline{t} = (t_j)_{j=0}^{m-1} \in \mathbb{R}_+^m$. In [7], a family of similar operators \mathcal{N}_s ($s \in \mathbb{R}$) was defined. Notice that the Lyapunov exponents λ_j ’s are now introduced in the definition of $\mathcal{N}_{(s,r)}$. It will be shown in Proposition 1 (see Section 2) that the equation $\mathcal{N}_{(s,r)} \underline{t} = \underline{t}$ admits a unique strictly positive solution $(t_0(s, r), \dots, t_{m-1}(s, r))$. We then define the pressure function by

$$P(s, r) = (q-1) \log \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} t_j(s, r) e^{-r\lambda_j}.$$

It will also be shown (Proposition 1) that P is real-analytic and convex, and even strictly convex if φ is not constant and the λ_j ’s are not all the same.

Let A and B be the infimum and the supremum respectively of the set

$$\left\{ a \in \mathbb{R} : \exists (s, r) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \text{ such that } \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r) = a \right\}.$$

Let $D_\varphi = \{\alpha \in \mathbb{R} : L_\varphi(\alpha) \neq \emptyset\}$. Our main result is as follows.

Theorem 1. *Under the assumptions made above, we have*

- (i). *We have $D_\varphi = [A, B]$.*
- (ii). *For any $\alpha \in (A, B)$, there exists a unique solution $(s(\alpha), r(\alpha)) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ to the system*

$$\begin{cases} P(s, r) &= \alpha s \\ \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r) &= \alpha. \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

Furthermore, $s(\alpha)$ and $r(\alpha)$ are real-analytic functions of $\alpha \in (A, B)$.

- (iii). *The following limits exist:*

$$r(A) := \lim_{\alpha \downarrow A} r(\alpha), \quad r(B) := \lim_{\alpha \uparrow B} r(\alpha).$$

- (iv). *For any $\alpha \in [A, B]$, we have*

$$\dim_H L_\varphi(\alpha) = r(\alpha).$$

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we first prove that the non-linear transfer operator $\mathcal{N}_{(s,r)}$ admits a unique positive fixed point $t(s, r)$ which is real-analytic and convex as a function of (s, r) . Then we recall the class of *telescopic product measures* studied in [12, 7]. From each fixed point $t(s, r)$, we construct a special telescopic product measure, which will play the role of a Gibbs measure in our study of $L_\varphi(\alpha)$. In Section 3, we study the local dimensions of the telescopic product measures defined by $t(s, r)$ and the formula of their local dimensions will be given. Section 4 is devoted to the proof of (ii) of Theorem 1. The assertions (i), (iii) and (iv) of Theorem 1 are proven in Section 5.

2. NON-LINEAR TRANSFER EQUATION AND A CLASS OF SPECIAL TELESCOPIC PRODUCT MEASURES.

Recall that $S = \{0, 1, \dots, m-1\}$ and $\Sigma_m = S^{\mathbb{N}^*}$. For $i \in S$, let $f_i : [0, 1] \rightarrow I_i$ be the branches of T^{-1} . Define the coding map $\Pi : \Sigma_m \rightarrow [0, 1]$ by

$$\Pi((x_k)_{k=1}^\infty) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_{x_1} \circ f_{x_2} \cdots f_{x_n}(0).$$

Then we have $\Pi(\Sigma_m) = J_T$. Define the subset $E_\varphi(\alpha)$ of Σ_m which was studied in [6, 7]:

$$E_\varphi(\alpha) := \left\{ (x_k)_{k=1}^\infty \in \Sigma_m : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \varphi(x_k, x_{kq}) = \alpha \right\}.$$

Then with a difference of a countable set, we have $L_\varphi(\alpha) = \Pi(E_\varphi(\alpha))$.

In [6, 7], a family of Gibbs-type measures called *telescopic product measures* were used to compute the Hausdorff dimension of $E_\varphi(\alpha)$. Here we construct a similar class of measures in order to determine the Hausdorff dimension of $L_\varphi(\alpha)$. In the following, we suppose that φ is not constant (otherwise the problem is trivial) and that the λ_j 's are not the same (otherwise the problem is reduced to the case considered in [6, 7]).

2.1. Non-linear transfer operator. In this subsection, we present some properties of the non-linear transfer operator $\mathcal{N}_{(s,r)}$, which will be used later.

Proposition 1. *For any $s, r \in \mathbb{R}$, the equation $\mathcal{N}_{(s,r)}y = y$ admits a unique solution $\underline{t}(s, r) = (t_0(s, r), \dots, t_{m-1}(s, r))$ with strictly positive components, which can be obtained as the limit of the iteration $\mathcal{N}_{(s,r)}^n \underline{1} =: \underline{t}^n(s, r)$, where $\underline{1} = (1, 1, \dots, 1)$. The functions $t_i(s, r)$ and the pressure function $P(s, r)$ are real-analytic and strictly convex on \mathbb{R}^2 .*

Proof. (1). *Existence and uniqueness of solution.* Since $e^{s\varphi(i,j)+r\lambda_j} > 0$ for all $0 \leq i, j \leq m-1$, the existence and uniqueness of solution are deduced directly from the following lemma.

Lemma 1. [7, Theorem 4.1] *For any matrix $A = (A(i, j))_{0 \leq i, j \leq m-1}$ with strictly positive entries, there exists a unique fixed vector $\underline{x} = (x_0, \dots, x_{m-1}) \in \mathbb{R}^m$ with strictly positive components to the operator $\mathcal{N} : \mathbb{R}_+^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^m$ defined by*

$$\forall \underline{y} \in \mathbb{R}_+^m, \quad (\mathcal{N}\underline{y})_i = \left(\sum_{j=0}^{m-1} A(i, j)y_j \right)^{1/q}, \quad (i = 0, \dots, m-1).$$

Furthermore, the fixed vector \underline{x} can be obtained as $\underline{x} = \lim_n \mathcal{N}^n(\underline{1})$.

(2). *Analyticity of $(s, r) \mapsto \underline{t}(s, r)$.* This has been proven in [7, Proposition 4.2] for the case when all λ_i 's are the same. We adapt the proof given there with minor modifications.

We consider the map $G : \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}_+^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ defined by

$$\forall \underline{z} = (z_0, \dots, z_{m-1}) \quad G((s, r), \underline{z}) = (G_i((s, r), \underline{z}))_{i=0}^{m-1},$$

where

$$G_i((s, r), \underline{z}) = z_i^q - \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} e^{s\varphi(i,j)-r\lambda_j} z_j.$$

It is clear that G is real-analytic. By Lemma 1, for any fixed $(s, r) \in \mathbb{R}^2$, $\underline{t}(s, r)$ is the unique positive vector satisfying

$$G((s, r), \underline{t}(s, r)) = 0.$$

By the Implicit Function Theorem, to prove the analyticity of $(s, r) \mapsto \underline{t}(s, r)$, we only need to show that the Jacobian matrix

$$M(s) = \left(\frac{\partial G_i}{\partial z_j}((s, r), \underline{t}(s, r)) \right)_{0 \leq i, j \leq m-1}$$

is invertible for all $(s, r) \in \mathbb{R}^2$. To this end, we consider the following matrix

$$\widetilde{M}(s) = \left(t_j(s, r) \frac{\partial G_i}{\partial z_j}((s, r), \underline{t}(s, r)) \right)_{0 \leq i, j \leq m-1},$$

obtained by multiplying the j -th column of $M(s)$ by $t_j(s, r)$ for each $0 \leq j \leq m-1$. Then $\det(M(s)) \neq 0$ if and only if $\det(\widetilde{M}(s)) \neq 0$. So it suffices to prove that $\widetilde{M}(s)$ is invertible. We will show that $\widetilde{M}(s)$ is strictly diagonal dominating. Then by Gershgorin Circle Theorem (see e.g. [17, Theorem 1.4, page 6]), $\widetilde{M}(s)$ is invertible.

Recall that a matrix is said to be strictly diagonal dominating if for every row of the matrix, the modulus of the diagonal entry in the row is strictly larger than the sum of the modulus of all the other (non-diagonal) entries in that row.

Now we are left to show that for any $0 \leq i \leq m-1$,

$$\left| t_i(s, r) \frac{\partial G_i}{\partial z_i}((s, r), \underline{t}(s, r)) \right| - \sum_{\substack{0 \leq j \leq m-1 \\ i \neq j}} \left| t_j(s, r) \frac{\partial G_i}{\partial z_j}((s, r), \underline{t}(s, r)) \right| > 0. \quad (4)$$

In fact, we have

$$\frac{\partial G_i}{\partial z_j}((s, r), \underline{t}(s, r)) = \begin{cases} qt_i^{q-1}(s, r) - e^{s\varphi(i,i)-r\lambda_i} & \text{if } j = i, \\ e^{s\varphi(i,j)+r\lambda_j} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Then, substituting the last expression into (4), we deduce that the left hand side of (4) is equal to

$$qt_i^q(s, r) - \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} e^{s\varphi(i,j)-r\lambda_j} t_j(s, r). \quad (5)$$

By the fact that $\underline{t}(s, r)$ is the fixed vector of $\mathcal{N}_{(s,r)}$, (5) is equal to $(q-1)t_i^q(s, r)$ which is strictly positive.

(3). *Convexity of $\underline{t}(s, r)$ and $P(s, r)$.* When all λ_i 's are the same, the convexity results of $\underline{t}(s, r)$ and $P(s, r)$ have been proven in detail in Sections 4 and 5 of [7] by studying the operator $\mathcal{N}_{(s,r)}$. The main idea there is to prove by induction the convexity of each $(s, r) \mapsto \underline{t}^n(s, r)$. Then the limit $\underline{t}(s, r) = \lim_n \underline{t}^n(s, r)$ is also convex. For the strictly convexity of $\underline{t}(s, r)$, one uses analyticity property and the fact that a convex analytic function is either strictly convex or linear.

We will omit the proofs which are elementary and are just minor modifications of those of [7]. One can refer to Sections 4, 5 and also 10 of [7]. \square

To end this subsection, we give the following remark on the monotonicity of the function $r \mapsto P(s, r)$.

Remark 1. *Observe that for any fixed $s \in \mathbb{R}$, the function $r \mapsto \mathcal{N}_{(s,r)}^n \bar{1}$ is decreasing for all n . Thus for all $0 \leq i \leq m-1$, the function $r \mapsto t_i(s, r)$ is also decreasing, and so is the function $r \mapsto P(s, r)$.*

2.2. Construction of telescopic product measures and law of large numbers. An important tool for the study of the multiple ergodic average of φ , introduced in [11, 12] and used in [6, 7, 15, 14], is the telescopic product measure. This class of measures will also be the main ingredient of our proofs concerning the estimate of Hausdorff dimension of $L_\varphi(\alpha)$. Let us recall the definition of the telescopic product measure. Consider the following partition of \mathbb{N}^* :

$$\mathbb{N}^* = \bigsqcup_{i \geq 1, q \nmid i} \Lambda_i \quad \text{with } \Lambda_i = \{iq^j\}_{j \geq 0}.$$

Then we decompose Σ_m as follows:

$$\Sigma_m = \prod_{i \geq 1, q \nmid i} S^{\Lambda_i}.$$

Let μ be a probability measure on Σ_m . We consider μ as a measure on S^{Λ_i} , which is identified with Σ_m , for every i with $q \nmid i$. Let μ_i be a copy of μ on S^{Λ_i} and $\mathbb{P}_\mu = \prod_{i \leq n, q \nmid i} \mu_i$. More precisely, for any word u of length n we define

$$\mathbb{P}_\mu([u]) = \prod_{i \leq n, q \nmid i} \mu([u|_{\Lambda_i}]),$$

where $[u]$ denotes the cylinder set of all sequences starting with u and

$$u|_{\Lambda_i} = u_i u_{iq} \cdots u_{iq^j}, \quad iq^j \leq |u| < iq^{j+1}.$$

Below, we construct a special class of Markov measures whose initial laws and transition probabilities are determined by the fixed point $(t_i(s, r))_{i \in S}$ of the operator $\mathcal{N}_{(s, r)}$. The corresponding telescopic product measure will play a central role in the study of $E_\varphi(\alpha)$.

Recall that $(t_i(s, r))_{i \in S}$ satisfies

$$t_i(s, r)^q = \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} e^{s\varphi(i, j) - r\lambda_j} t_j(s, r), \quad (i = 0, \dots, m-1).$$

The functions $t_i(s, r)$ allow us to define a Markov measure $\mu_{s, r}$ with initial law $\pi_{s, r} = (\pi(i))_{i \in S}$ and probability transition matrix $Q_{s, r} = (p_{i, j})_{S \times S}$ defined by

$$\pi(i) = \frac{t_i(s, r)e^{-r\lambda_i}}{t_0(s, r)e^{r\lambda_0} + \dots + t_{m-1}(s, r)e^{r\lambda_{m-1}}}, \quad p_{i, j} = e^{s\varphi(i, j) - r\lambda_j} \frac{t_j(s, r)}{t_i(s, r)^q}. \quad (6)$$

We denote by $\mathbb{P}_{s, r}$ the telescopic product measure associated to $\mu_{s, r}$. Recall that Π is the coding map from Σ_m to $[0, 1]$. Define

$$\nu_{s, r} = \Pi_* \mathbb{P}_{s, r} = \mathbb{P}_{s, r} \circ \Pi^{-1}.$$

We will use the following law of large numbers which is proved in [7].

Theorem 2 (Theorem 2.6 in [7]). *Let μ be any probability measure on Σ_m and let F be a real-valued function defined on $S \times S$. For \mathbb{P}_μ a.e. $x \in \Sigma_m$ we have*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n F(x_k, x_{kq}) = (q-1)^2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{q^{k+1}} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \mathbb{E}_\mu F(x_j, x_{j+1}).$$

3. LOCAL DIMENSION OF $\nu_{s, r}$

For a Borel measure μ on a metric space X , the lower local dimension of μ at a point $x \in X$ is defined by

$$\underline{D}(\mu, x) := \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \mu(B(x, r))}{\log r}.$$

If the limit exists, then the limit will be called the local dimension of μ at x , and denoted by $D(\mu, x)$.

In this section, we study the local dimension of $\nu_{s, r}$. The main results of this section are Propositions 3, 4, and 5. Proposition 3 gives estimates of the local dimensions of $\nu_{s, r}$ on the level set $L_\varphi(\alpha)$. Proposition 4 proves that $\nu_{s, r}$ is supported on $L_\varphi(\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r))$. In Proposition 5, it is shown that $\nu_{s, r}$ is exact dimensional, i.e., the local dimension of $\nu_{s, r}$ exists and is constant almost surely. The exact formula of this constant is given as well.

We first give an explicit relation between the mass $\mathbb{P}_{s, r}([x_1^n])$ and the multiple ergodic sum $\sum_{j=1}^n \varphi(x_j, x_{qj})$. For $x \in \Sigma_m$, define

$$B_n(x) = \sum_{j=1}^n \log t_{x_j}(s, r).$$

Proposition 2. *We have*

$$\log \mathbb{P}_{s, r}([x_1^n]) = s \sum_{j=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{q} \rfloor} \varphi(x_j, x_{jq}) - (n - \lfloor \frac{n}{q} \rfloor) \frac{P(s, r)}{q-1} - r \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_{x_j} - qB_{\lfloor \frac{n}{q} \rfloor}(x) + B_n(x).$$

Proof. For $q \nmid i$, let $\Lambda_i(n) = \Lambda_i \cap [1, n]$. By the definition of $\mathbb{P}_{s,r}$, we have

$$-\log \mathbb{P}_{s,r}[x_1^n] = - \sum_{q \nmid i, i \leq n} \log \mu_{s,r}[x_1^n |_{\Lambda_i(n)}].$$

We classify $\Lambda_i(n)$ ($q \nmid i, i \leq n$) according to their length $|\Lambda_i(n)|$. We have $\min_{q \nmid i, i \leq n} |\Lambda_i(n)| = 1$ and $\max_{q \nmid i, i \leq n} |\Lambda_i(n)| = \lfloor \log_q n \rfloor$. Observe that $|\Lambda_i(n)| = k$ if and only if $\frac{n}{q^k} < i \leq \frac{n}{q^{k-1}}$. So

$$-\log \mathbb{P}_{s,r}[x_1^n] = - \sum_{k=1}^{\lfloor \log_q n \rfloor} \sum_{\frac{n}{q^k} < i \leq \frac{n}{q^{k-1}}, q \nmid i} \log \mu_{s,r}[x_1^n |_{\Lambda_i(n)}]. \quad (7)$$

Denote $t_\emptyset(s, r) := \sum_{j \in S} t_j(s, r) e^{-r \lambda_j}$. For simplicity, we also write t_\emptyset and t_j for $t_\emptyset(s, r)$ and $t_j(s, r)$ and keep their dependences on s and r in mind.

By the definition of $\mu_{s,r}$, for i with $\frac{n}{q^k} < i \leq \frac{n}{q^{k-1}}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \log \mu_{s,r}[x_1^n |_{\Lambda_i(n)}] &= \log \frac{t_{x_i} e^{-r \lambda_{x_i}}}{t_\emptyset} + \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \log \left(e^{s \varphi(x_{iq^{j-1}}, x_{iq^j}) - r \lambda_{x_{iq^j}}} \frac{t_{x_{iq^j}}}{t_{x_{iq^{j-1}}}} \right) \\ &= s S_{n,i} \varphi(x) - (q-1) S_{n,i} t(x) + \log t_{x_{iq^{k-1}}} - r S_{n,i} \lambda(x) - \log t_\emptyset, \end{aligned}$$

where $S_{n,i} \varphi(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \varphi(x_{iq^{j-1}}, x_{iq^j})$, $S_{n,i} t(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \log t_{x_{iq^{j-1}}}$ and $S_{n,i} \lambda(x) = \sum_{j \in \Lambda_i(n)} \lambda_{x_j}$. Substituting the above expressions in (7) and noticing that $\frac{n}{q^k} < i \leq \frac{n}{q^{k-1}}$ is equivalent to $\frac{n}{q} < iq^{k-1} \leq n$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \log \mathbb{P}_{s,r}[x_1^n] &= s \sum_{q \nmid i, i \leq n} S_{n,i} \varphi(x) - (q-1) \sum_{q \nmid i, i \leq n} S_{n,i} t(x) + \sum_{\frac{n}{q} \leq \ell < n} \log t_{x_\ell} \\ &\quad - r \sum_{q \nmid i, i \leq n} S_{n,i} \lambda(x) - \#\{q \nmid i, i \leq n\} \log t_\emptyset \\ &= s \sum_{j=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{q} \rfloor} \varphi(x_j, x_{jq}) - (q-1) \sum_{j=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{q} \rfloor} \log t_{x_j} + \sum_{\ell=\lfloor \frac{n}{q} \rfloor+1}^n \log t_{x_\ell} \\ &\quad - r \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_{x_j} - (n - \lfloor \frac{n}{q} \rfloor) \log t_\emptyset. \end{aligned}$$

We then end the proof by observing that $(q-1) \log t_\emptyset(s, r) = P(s, r)$ and

$$-(q-1) \sum_{j=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{q} \rfloor} \log t_{x_j} + \sum_{\ell=\lfloor \frac{n}{q} \rfloor+1}^n \log t_{x_\ell} = -q B_{\lfloor \frac{n}{q} \rfloor}(x) + B_n(x).$$

□

3.1. Local dimensions of $\nu_{s,r}$ on level sets. As an application of Proposition 2, we obtain an upper bound for the local dimension of $\nu_{s,r}$ on $L_\varphi(\alpha)$ in Proposition 3 below. The following elementary result will be useful for the estimates of local dimension of $\nu_{s,r}$.

Lemma 2. *Let $(a_n)_{n \geq 1}$ be a bounded sequence of non-negative real numbers. Then*

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(a_{\lfloor \frac{n}{q} \rfloor} - a_n \right) \leq 0.$$

Proof. Let $b_l = a_{q^{l-1}} - a_{q^l}$ for $l \in \mathbb{N}^*$. Then the boundedness implies

$$\lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} \frac{b_1 + \cdots + b_l}{l} = \lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_1 - a_{q^l}}{l} = 0.$$

This in turn implies $\liminf_{l \rightarrow \infty} b_l \leq 0$. Thus

$$\liminf_{l \rightarrow \infty} \left(a_{\lfloor \frac{n}{q} \rfloor} - a_n \right) \leq \liminf_{l \rightarrow \infty} b_l \leq 0.$$

□

Proposition 3. *For any $x \in E_\varphi(\alpha)$, we have*

$$\liminf_n \frac{\log \nu_{s,r}(\Pi[x_1^n])}{\log |\Pi[x_1^n]|} \leq r + \limsup_n \frac{P(s,r)/q - \alpha s/q}{(\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_{x_j})/n}.$$

Proof. Since $\nu_{s,r}(\Pi[x_1^n]) = \mathbb{P}_{s,r}([x_1^n])$, by Proposition 2 we can write $\log \nu_{s,r}(\Pi[x_1^n])$ as

$$s \sum_{j=1}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{q} \rfloor} \varphi(x_j, x_{jq}) - (n - \lfloor \frac{n}{q} \rfloor) \frac{P(s,r)}{q-1} - r \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_{x_j} - qB_{\lfloor \frac{n}{q} \rfloor}(x) + B_n(x).$$

On the other hand, $\log |\Pi[x_1^n]| = -\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_{x_j}$. Thus, for $x \in E_\varphi(\alpha)$

$$\begin{aligned} & \liminf_n \frac{\log \nu_{s,r}(\Pi[x_1^n])}{\log |\Pi[x_1^n]|} \\ & \leq \limsup_n \frac{P(s,r)/q - \alpha s/q}{(\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_{x_j})/n} + r + \liminf_n \frac{\frac{q}{n} B_{\lfloor \frac{n}{q} \rfloor}(x) - \frac{1}{n} B_n(x)}{(\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_{x_j})/n}. \end{aligned}$$

Then, we end the proof by applying Lemma 2 to the sequence $\frac{1}{n} B_n(x)$:

$$\liminf_n \left(\frac{q}{n} B_{\lfloor \frac{n}{q} \rfloor}(x) - \frac{1}{n} B_n(x) \right) \leq 0.$$

□

Remark 2. *Denote $\lambda_{\min} = \min_i \lambda_i$ and $\lambda_{\max} = \max_i \lambda_i$. Let*

$$\tilde{\lambda}(x) := \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_{x_j}.$$

Then $\tilde{\lambda}(x) \in [\lambda_{\min}, \lambda_{\max}]$ and

$$\limsup_n \frac{P(s,r)/q - \alpha s/q}{(\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_{x_j})/n} = \frac{P(s,r)/q - \alpha s/q}{\tilde{\lambda}(x)}.$$

So we deduce from Proposition 3 that for any $x \in L_\varphi(\alpha)$

$$\underline{D}(\nu_{s,r}, x) \leq r + \frac{P(s,r)/q - \alpha s/q}{\tilde{\lambda}(x)}, \quad (s,r) \in \mathbb{R}^2. \quad (8)$$

We have estimated the local dimension of $\nu_{s,r}$ on the level set $L_\varphi(\alpha)$. In the following proposition we show that $\nu_{s,r}$ is supported on $L_\varphi(\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s,r))$.

Proposition 4. *For $\mathbb{P}_{s,r}$ -a.e. $x = (x_i)_{i=1}^\infty \in \Sigma_m$, we have*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \varphi(x_k, x_{kq}) = \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s,r). \quad (9)$$

In particular, $\nu_{s,r} \left(L_\varphi \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s,r) \right) \right) = 1$.

Proof. We first prove the statement (9). By Theorem 2, we have for $\mathbb{P}_{s,r}$ -a.e. $x \in \Sigma_m$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \varphi(x_k, x_{kq}) = (q-1)^2 \sum_{k=1}^\infty \frac{1}{q^{k+1}} \sum_{h=0}^{k-1} \mathbb{E}_{\mu_{s,r}} \varphi(x_h, x_{h+1}). \quad (10)$$

Thus we only need to prove that the right hand side of (10) equals to $\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r)$. Observe that $\mathbb{E}_{\mu_{s,r}}\varphi(x_h, x_{h+1})$ can be expressed as

$$\pi Q^h \tilde{Q}(\underline{1}),$$

with

$$\pi = \left(\frac{t_i(s, r)e^{-r\lambda_i}}{t_\emptyset(s, r)} \right)_{i \in S}, \quad Q = \left(e^{s\varphi(i,j)-r\lambda_j} \frac{t_j(s, r)}{t_i(s, r)^q} \right)_{(i,j) \in S \times S}$$

and

$$\tilde{Q} = \left(e^{s\varphi(i,j)-r\lambda_j} \varphi(i, j) \frac{t_j(s, r)}{t_i^q(s, r)} \right)_{(i,j) \in S \times S}.$$

Recall that $(t_i(s, r))_i$ is the fixed point of $\mathcal{N}_{s,r}$:

$$t_i^q(s, r) = \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} e^{s\varphi(i,j)-r\lambda_j} t_j(s, r), \quad (i, j) \in S \times S. \quad (11)$$

Taking the derivative with respect to s of both sides of (11), we get

$$qt_i^{q-1}(s) \frac{\partial t_i}{\partial s}(s, r) = \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} \left(e^{s\varphi(i,j)-r\lambda_j} \varphi(i, j) t_j(s, r) + e^{s\varphi(i,j)} \frac{\partial t_j}{\partial s}(s, r) \right).$$

Dividing both sides of the above equation by $t_i^q(s, r)$, we obtain

$$\sum_{j=0}^{m-1} e^{s\varphi(i,j)-r\lambda_j} \varphi(i, j) \frac{t_j(s, r)}{t_i^q(s, r)} = q \frac{\partial t_i}{\partial s}(s, r) - \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} e^{s\varphi(i,j)} \frac{\partial t_j}{\partial s}(s, r) \frac{t_j(s, r)}{t_i^q(s, r)}. \quad (12)$$

Let w and v be two vectors defined by

$$w = q \left(\frac{\partial t_0}{\partial s}(s, r), \dots, \frac{\partial t_{m-1}}{\partial s}(s, r) \right)^t$$

and

$$v = \left(\sum_{j=0}^{m-1} e^{s\varphi(0,j)} \frac{\partial t_j}{\partial s}(s, r) \frac{t_j(s, r)}{t_0^q(s)}, \dots, \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} e^{s\varphi(m-1,j)} \frac{\partial t_j}{\partial s}(s, r) \frac{t_j(s, r)}{t_{m-1}^q(s)} \right).$$

Then, by (12), we have

$$\tilde{Q}(\underline{1}) = w - v.$$

Observe that $Qw = qv$, so

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{h=0}^{k-1} \pi Q^h \tilde{Q}(\underline{1}) &= \sum_{h=0}^{k-1} \pi Q^h (w - v) \\ &= \pi w + q \sum_{h=1}^{k-1} \pi Q^{h-1} v - \sum_{h=0}^{k-1} \pi Q^h v \\ &= \pi w + qS_{k-1} - S_k, \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where we denote $S_k = \sum_{h=0}^{k-1} \pi Q^h v$ for $k \geq 1$ and $S_0 = 0$. Denote by $\alpha(s)$ the right hand side of (10). Observe that $S_k/q^k \rightarrow 0$ when $k \rightarrow \infty$. Substituting (13) in

(10), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha(s) &= (q-1)^2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{q^{k+1}} (\pi w + qS_{k-1} - S_k) \\ &= (q-1)^2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{q^{k+1}} \pi w \\ &= \frac{q-1}{q} \pi w = (q-1) \frac{\sum_{j=0}^{m-1} \frac{\partial t_j}{\partial s}(s, r) e^{-r\lambda_j}}{t_\emptyset(s, r)} = \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r).\end{aligned}$$

Now we show that $\nu_{s,r} \left(L_\varphi \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r) \right) \right) = 1$. The formula (9) implies

$$\mathbb{P}_{s,r} \left(E_\varphi \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r) \right) \right) = 1.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}\nu_{s,r} \left(L_\varphi \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r) \right) \right) &= \mathbb{P}_{s,r} \left(\Pi^{-1} \left(L_\varphi \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r) \right) \right) \right) \\ &= \mathbb{P}_{s,r} \left(E_\varphi \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r) \right) \right) = 1.\end{aligned}$$

□

Let $\lambda(s, r)$ be the expected limit with respect to $\mathbb{P}_{s,r}$ of the average of the Lyapunov exponents $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_{\omega_k}$ with $\omega \in \Sigma_m$. By Theorem 2, we have

$$\lambda(s, r) = (q-1)^2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{q^{k+1}} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \mathbb{E}_{\mu_{s,r}} \lambda_{\omega_j}.$$

As an application of Proposition 4, we show that the measure $\nu_{s,r}$ is exact dimensional and we have the following formula for its dimension.

Proposition 5. *For $\nu_{s,r}$ -a.e. x we have*

$$D(\nu_{s,r}, x) = r + \frac{P(s, r) - s \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r)}{q\lambda(s, r)}.$$

Proof. We only need to show that for $\mathbb{P}_{s,r}$ -a.e. $y \in \Sigma_m$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log \mathbb{P}_{s,r}([y_1^n])}{\log |\Pi([y_1^n])|} = r + \frac{P(s, r) - s \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r)}{q\lambda(s, r)}. \quad (14)$$

Since $|\Pi([y_1^n])| = e^{-\sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_{y_k}}$, from the discussion preceding Proposition 5, we get for $\mathbb{P}_{s,r}$ -a.e. y

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log |\Pi([y_1^n])|}{n} = -\lambda(s, r). \quad (15)$$

On the other hand, by Theorem 2, Proposition 2 and Proposition 4, we have for $\mathbb{P}_{s,r}$ -a.e. y

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log \mathbb{P}_{s,r}([y_1^n])}{n} = \frac{s}{q} \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r) - \frac{1}{q} P(s, r) - r\lambda(s, r). \quad (16)$$

Combining (15) and (16), we get (14).

□

4. FURTHER PROPERTIES OF THE PRESSURE FUNCTION AND STUDY OF THE SYSTEM (3)

The main result of this section is Proposition 6 below on the solution of the system (3).

We will use the following lemma concerning the range of the partial derivatives of $P(s, r)$. Recall that $(A, B) = \{\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r) : (s, r) \in \mathbb{R}^2\}$.

Lemma 3. *For any $r \in \mathbb{R}$, we have*

$$\left\{ \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r) : s \in \mathbb{R} \right\} = (A, B)$$

Proof. Fix $r_0 \in \mathbb{R}$. Since $s \mapsto P(s, r)$ is convex, It suffices to show that

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r_0) = B \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{s \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r_0) = A.$$

We only give the proof for the case when s goes to $+\infty$. The case for s tending to $-\infty$ is similar. The proof will be done by contradiction. Suppose that there exists $\epsilon > 0$ such that

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r_0) \leq B - \epsilon \quad \text{for all } s \in \mathbb{R}.$$

By the Mean Value Theorem, for any $s > 0$, we have

$$P(s, r_0) - P(0, r_0) \leq s(B - \epsilon). \quad (17)$$

By the definition of B , there exists $(s', r') \in \mathbb{R}^2$ such that $\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s', r') = B - \epsilon/2$. By Proposition 4, $\nu_{s', r'}(L_\varphi(B - \epsilon/2)) = 1$, so $L_\varphi(B - \epsilon/2) \neq \emptyset$. Let $x \in L_\varphi(B - \epsilon/2)$. By Proposition 3 and Remark 2, we have

$$\underline{D}(\nu_{s, r_0}, x) \leq r_0 + \frac{P(s, r_0)/q - (B - \epsilon/2)s/q}{\tilde{\lambda}(x)}.$$

Substituting (17) in the above inequality, we get

$$\underline{D}(\nu_{s, r_0}, x) \leq r_0 + \frac{P(0, r_0)/q - \epsilon s/2q}{\tilde{\lambda}(x)}.$$

Since $\tilde{\lambda}(x) \in [\lambda_{\min}, \lambda_{\max}]$, the second term in the right hand side of the above inequality tends to $-\infty$ when $s \rightarrow +\infty$. So, for s large enough we must have $\underline{D}(\nu_{s, r_0}, x) < 0$. But this is impossible since ν_{s, r_0} is a probability measure. Thus, we conclude that $\lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r_0) = B$. □

Proposition 6. *For any $\alpha \in (A, B)$, there exists a unique solution $(s(\alpha), r(\alpha)) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ to the system*

$$\begin{cases} P(s, r) & = \alpha s \\ \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r) & = \alpha, \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

Moreover the functions $s(\alpha), r(\alpha)$ are analytic on (A, B) .

Proof. 1). *Existence and uniqueness of the solution $(s(\alpha), r(\alpha))$.* Fix $\alpha \in (A, B)$. By Lemma 3 and the strict convexity of $s \mapsto P(s, r)$, for any $r \in \mathbb{R}$, there exists a unique $s = s(\alpha, r) \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s(\alpha, r), r) = \alpha. \quad (19)$$

In the following, we will show that there exists a unique solution $r = r(\alpha) \in \mathbb{R}$ to the equation

$$P(s(\alpha, r), r) = \alpha s(\alpha, r).$$

Set $h(r) := P(s(\alpha, r), r) - \alpha s(\alpha, r)$. By (19)

$$\begin{aligned} h'(r) &= \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s(\alpha, r), r) \frac{\partial s(\alpha, r)}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial P}{\partial r}(s(\alpha, r), r) - \alpha \frac{\partial s(\alpha, r)}{\partial r} \\ &= \frac{\partial P}{\partial r}(s(\alpha, r), r). \end{aligned}$$

For fixed s the function $r \mapsto P(s, r)$ is strictly decreasing, since it is strictly convex and decreasing (Remark 1). So $\frac{\partial P}{\partial r}(s(\alpha, r), r) < 0$ and thus $h(r)$ is also strictly decreasing. For the rest of the proof, we only need to show $\lim_{r \rightarrow +\infty} h(r) < 0$ and $\lim_{r \rightarrow -\infty} h(r) > 0$, then we conclude by applying the Intermediate Value Theorem.

By Proposition 5, we have

$$\dim \nu_{s(\alpha, r), r} = r + \frac{P(s(\alpha, r), r) - s(\alpha, r)\alpha}{q\lambda(s(\alpha, r), r)}.$$

Observe that for any $r \in \mathbb{R}$, we have always $0 \leq \dim \nu_{s(\alpha, r), r} \leq 1$ and $0 < \lambda_{\min} \leq \lambda(s(\alpha, r), r) \leq \lambda_{\max}$. So we have

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow +\infty} h(r) = \lim_{r \rightarrow +\infty} (\dim \nu_{s(\alpha, r), r} - r) q\lambda(s(\alpha, r), r) < 0.$$

Similarly,

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow -\infty} h(r) > 0.$$

2). *Analyticity of $(s(\alpha), r(\alpha))$.* Consider the map

$$F = \begin{pmatrix} F_1 \\ F_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} P(s, r) - \alpha s \\ \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r) - \alpha \end{pmatrix}.$$

The jacobian matrix of F is equal to

$$J(F) := \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial s} & \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial r} \\ \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial s} & \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial r} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial P}{\partial s} - \alpha & \frac{\partial P}{\partial r} \\ \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial s^2} & \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial r \partial s} \end{pmatrix}.$$

So we have

$$\det(J(F))|_{s=s(\alpha), r=r(\alpha)} = -\frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial s^2} \cdot \frac{\partial P}{\partial r} \neq 0.$$

Then by the Implicit Function Theorem, $s(\alpha)$ and $r(\alpha)$ are analytic. \square

5. PROOF OF THEOREM 1

5.1. **Computation of $\dim_H L_\varphi(\alpha)$ for $\alpha \in (A, B)$.** We will use the following Billingsley Lemma.

Lemma 4 (see e.g. Proposition 4.9. in [3]). *Let $E \subset \Sigma_m$ be a Borel set and let μ be a finite Borel measure on Σ_m .*

- (i) *If $\mu(E) > 0$ and $\underline{D}(\mu, x) \geq d$ for μ -a.e x , then $\dim_H(E) \geq d$;*
- (ii) *If $\underline{D}(\mu, x) \leq d$ for all $x \in E$, then $\dim_H(E) \leq d$.*

Theorem 3. *For any $\alpha \in (A, B)$, we have*

$$\dim_H L_\varphi(\alpha) = r(\alpha).$$

Proof. By (8) and the equality $P(s(\alpha), r(\alpha)) = \alpha s(\alpha)$, we have

$$\underline{D}(\nu_{s(\alpha), r(\alpha)}, x) \leq r(\alpha) \text{ for all } x \in L_\varphi(\alpha).$$

Then Lemma 4 implies that

$$\dim_H L_\varphi(\alpha) \leq r(\alpha).$$

By Proposition 4 and the equality $\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s(\alpha), r(\alpha)) = \alpha s(\alpha)$, we know that

$$\nu_{s(\alpha), r(\alpha)}(L_\varphi(\alpha)) = 1.$$

On the other hand, by Proposition 5,

$$D(\nu_{s(\alpha),r(\alpha)}, x) = r(\alpha) \quad \text{for } \nu_{s(\alpha),r(\alpha)}\text{-a.e. } x.$$

Applying Lemma 4 again, we obtain

$$\dim_H L_\varphi(\alpha) \geq r(\alpha).$$

□

5.2. Range of $\{\alpha : L_\varphi(\alpha) \neq \emptyset\}$.

Proposition 7. *We have $\{\alpha : L_\varphi(\alpha) \neq \emptyset\} \subset [A, B]$.*

Proof. We prove it by contradiction. Suppose that $L_\varphi(\alpha) \neq \emptyset$ for some $\alpha > B$. Let $x \in L_\varphi(\alpha)$. Then by (8) and taking $r = 0$, we have

$$\underline{D}(\nu_{s,0}, x) \leq \frac{P(s,0) - \alpha s}{q\tilde{\lambda}(x)} \quad \text{for all } s \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (20)$$

On the other hand, by the mean value theorem, we have

$$P(s,0) - \alpha s = \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(\eta_s, 0)s - \alpha s + P(0,0) \quad (21)$$

for some real number η_s between 0 and s . In the following, we suppose that $s > 0$. Substituting (21) in (20), we get

$$\underline{D}(\nu_{s,0}, x) \leq \frac{\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(\eta_s, 0)s - \alpha s + P(0,0)}{q\tilde{\lambda}(x)} \leq \frac{(B - \alpha)s + P(0,0)}{q\tilde{\lambda}(x)}.$$

Since $B - \alpha < 0$ and $\tilde{\lambda}(x) \in [\lambda_{\min}, \lambda_{\max}]$, the last term in the above inequalities tend to $-\infty$ when $s \rightarrow +\infty$. But this is impossible since we have always $\underline{D}(\nu_{s,0}, x) \geq 0$. Thus we must have $L_\varphi(\alpha) = \emptyset$ for any $\alpha > B$. Similarly we can also prove that $L_\varphi(\alpha) = \emptyset$ for any $\alpha < A$. □

As we will show, we actually have the equality $\{\alpha : L_\varphi(\alpha) \neq \emptyset\} = [A, B]$ (see Theorem 4).

5.3. Computation of $\dim_H L_\varphi(A)$ and $\dim_H L_\varphi(B)$. Now, we consider the level set $L_\varphi(\alpha)$ when $\alpha = A$ or B . The aim of this subsection is to prove the following theorem.

Theorem 4. (i). *The following limits exist:*

$$r(A) := \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow A} r(\alpha), \quad r(B) := \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow B} r(\alpha).$$

(ii). *If $\alpha = A$ or B , then $L_\varphi(\alpha) \neq \emptyset$ and*

$$\dim_H L_\varphi(\alpha) = r(\alpha).$$

We will give the proof of Theorem 4 for the case $\alpha = A$, the proof for $\alpha = B$ is similar.

5.3.1. Accumulation points of $\mu_{s(\alpha),r(\alpha)}$ when α tends to A . As all components of the vector $\pi_{s,r}$ and the matrix $Q_{s,r}$ (see formula (6)) are non-negative and bounded by 1, the set $\{(\pi_{s(\alpha),r(\alpha)}, Q_{s(\alpha),r(\alpha)}), \alpha \in (A, B)\}$ is precompact. So there exists a sequence $(\alpha_n)_n \in (A, B)$ with $\lim_n \alpha_n = A$ such that the limits

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \pi_{s(\alpha_n),r(\alpha_n)}, \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} Q_{s(\alpha_n),r(\alpha_n)}$$

exist. Using these limits as initial law and transition probability, we construct a Markov measure which we denote by μ_∞ . It is clear that the Markov measure $\mu_{s(\alpha_n),r(\alpha_n)}$ corresponding to $\pi_{s(\alpha_n),r(\alpha_n)}$ and $Q_{s(\alpha_n),r(\alpha_n)}$ converges to μ_∞ with respect to the weak-star topology. We denote by \mathbb{P}_∞ the telescopic product measure associated to μ_∞ and set $\nu_\infty := \mathbb{P}_\infty \circ \Pi^{-1}$.

Proposition 8. *We have*

$$\nu_\infty(L_\varphi(A)) = 1.$$

In particular, $L_\varphi(A) \neq \emptyset$.

Proof. Since $\nu_\infty(L_\varphi(A)) = \mathbb{P}_\infty(E_\varphi(A))$, we only need to show that $\mathbb{P}_\infty(E_\varphi(A)) = 1$, i.e., for \mathbb{P}_∞ -a.e. $x \in \Sigma_m$ we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \varphi(x_k, x_{kq}) = A.$$

By Theorem 2, for \mathbb{P}_∞ -a.e. $x \in \Sigma_m$ the limit in the left hand side of the above equation equals $M(\mu_\infty)$ where M is the functional on the space of probability measures defined by

$$M(\nu) = (q-1)^2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{q^{k+1}} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \mathbb{E}_\nu \varphi(x_j, x_{j+1}).$$

The function $\nu \mapsto M(\nu)$ is continuous, since the above series converges uniformly on ν and the function $\nu \mapsto \mathbb{E}_\nu \varphi(x_j, x_{j+1})$ is continuous for all j . Since $\mu_{s(\alpha_n), r(\alpha_n)}$ converges to μ_∞ when $n \rightarrow \infty$, we have that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} M(\mu_{s(\alpha_n), r(\alpha_n)}) = M(\mu_\infty).$$

Recall that the vector $(s(\alpha), r(\alpha))$ satisfies $\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s(\alpha), r(\alpha)) = \alpha$. By Proposition 4, we know that

$$M(\mu_{s(\alpha_n), r(\alpha_n)}) = \alpha_n.$$

So

$$M(\mu_\infty) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha_n = A.$$

□

From Theorem 3, we know that for each $\alpha \in (A, B)$, $r(\alpha) = \dim_H L_\varphi(\alpha) \in [0, 1]$. So, in particular the set $\{r(\alpha) : \alpha \in (A, B)\}$ is bounded.

We have the following formula for $\dim_H \nu_\infty$.

Proposition 9. *The limit $r(A) := \lim_n r(\alpha_n)$ exists and we have*

$$\dim \nu_\infty = r(A).$$

Proof. Let $(\alpha_{n_k})_k$ be any subsequence of $(\alpha_n)_n$ such that the the limit $\lim_k r(\alpha_{n_k})$ exists. We will show that this limit is equal to $\dim \nu_\infty$.

The measure ν_∞ is exact dimensional and its dimension is given by

$$\dim \nu_\infty = \frac{\dim(\mathbb{P}_\infty)}{\lambda(\mathbb{P}_\infty)},$$

where $\dim(\mathbb{P}_\infty)$ is the a.e. local dimension of \mathbb{P}_∞ and $\lambda(\mathbb{P}_\infty)$ is the expected limit with respect to \mathbb{P}_∞ of the average of the Lyapunov exponents $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_{\omega_k}$ with $\omega \in \Sigma_m$, i.e.,

$$\lambda(\mathbb{P}_\infty) = (q-1)^2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{q^{k+1}} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \mathbb{E}_{\mu_\infty} \lambda_{\omega_j}.$$

By similar arguments as used in the proof of Proposition 8, we can show that the functions

$$\mu \mapsto \dim(\mathbb{P}_\mu), \quad \mu \mapsto \lambda(\mathbb{P}_\mu)$$

are continuous on the space of probability measures. Thus, we deduce that

$$\dim \nu_\infty = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\dim(\mathbb{P}_{\mu_{s(\alpha_{n_k}), r(\alpha_{n_k})}})}{\lambda(\mathbb{P}_{\mu_{s(\alpha_{n_k}), r(\alpha_{n_k})}})} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \dim \nu_{s(\alpha_{n_k}), r(\alpha_{n_k})} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} r(\alpha_{n_k}),$$

where we have used Theorem 3 for the last equality. Since the subsequence $(\alpha_{n_k})_k$ is arbitrary, we deduce that the limit $r(A) := \lim_n r(\alpha_n)$ exists and $\dim \nu_\infty = r(A)$. \square

In the proof of Theorem 4, we will use the following lemma. Recall that for $\alpha \in (A, B)$, the vector $(s(\alpha), r(\alpha))$ is the unique solution of the equation (18).

Lemma 5. *There exists $A' \in (A, B)$ such that*

$$s(\alpha) < 0 \quad \text{for } \alpha \in (A, A').$$

Proof. Let

$$D := \left\{ \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(0, r) : r \in [0, 1] \right\}.$$

Then D is a compact set of \mathbb{R} . Since for any $r \in \mathbb{R}$ the function $s \mapsto \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r)$ is strictly increasing and $\inf_{s \in \mathbb{R}} \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r) = A$ (Lemma 3), we get $\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(0, r) > A$ for all $r \in \mathbb{R}$. Thus we have $A' := \min\{D\} > A$. Now, we consider the following subset of D :

$$D' := \left\{ \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(0, r(\alpha)) : \alpha \in (A, B) \right\}.$$

We have $\inf D' \geq A' > A$. For any $\alpha < A'$, we have

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s(\alpha), r(\alpha)) = \alpha < A' \leq \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(0, r(\alpha)).$$

Using again the fact that the function $s \mapsto \frac{\partial P}{\partial s}(s, r)$ is strictly increasing, we get

$$s(\alpha) < 0 \quad \text{for } \alpha \in (A, A').$$

\square

Now, we can give the proof of Theorem 4.

Proof of Theorem 4. (1). Fix any sequence $(\beta_n)_n \in (A, B)$ with $\lim_n \beta_n = A$. Then there exists a subsequence $(\beta_{n_k})_k$ of $(\beta_n)_n$ such that the limits

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \pi_{s(\beta_{n_k}), r(\beta_{n_k})}, \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} Q_{s(\beta_{n_k}), r(\beta_{n_k})}$$

exist. With a same proof of Proposition 9, we can show that the limit $\lim_k r(\beta_{n_k})$ exists and equals to $\dim \nu_\infty$. Thus, we deduce that the limit $\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow A} r(\alpha)$ exists and equals to $\dim \nu_\infty$.

(2). We will show that

$$\dim_H L_\varphi(A) = r(A).$$

By Proposition 8 and 9 and Lemma 4, we get

$$\dim_H L_\varphi(A) \geq r(A).$$

We now show the reverse inequality. By (8) and again Lemma 4, we obtain

$$\dim_H L_\varphi(A) \leq r + \frac{P(s, r) - As}{q\tilde{\lambda}(x)} \quad \text{for any } (s, r) \in \mathbb{R}^2.$$

Note that $\tilde{\lambda}(x) \in [\lambda_{\min}, \lambda_{\max}]$, so in particular $\tilde{\lambda}(x) > 0$. For any $\alpha \in (A, A')$, we have

$$P(s(\alpha), r(\alpha)) - As(\alpha) = P(s(\alpha), r(\alpha)) - \alpha s(\alpha) + (\alpha - A)s(\alpha) = (\alpha - A)s(\alpha) < 0,$$

where for the second equality we have used the fact that $P(s(\alpha), r(\alpha)) = \alpha s(\alpha)$ and the last inequality follows from Lemma 5. Thus, we deduce that

$$\dim_H L_\varphi(A) \leq r(\alpha) \quad \text{for all } \alpha \in (A, A').$$

Since $\alpha_n \rightarrow A$ and $r(\alpha_n) \rightarrow r(A)$, we have

$$\dim_H L_\varphi(A) \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r(\alpha_n) = r(A).$$

□

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